

City of St. Albans.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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Public Health Department.

Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Assistant School Medical Officer.
Medical Superintendent, Sisters' Hospital

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

A. L. GOOD, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. W. MCHUGO, F.I.C.,
Public Analyst (part-time).

MRS. J. E. CLEAR.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the
City of St. Albans.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual Report for the year 1946.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (1931 Census), 28,625.

Population (estimated), 41,990.

Rateable Value, £397,451.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £1605.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales	19·1	11·5	43
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	22·2	12·7	46
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)	21·3	11·7	37
London	21·5	12·7	41
St. Albans City	18·0	10·7	33

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15	6	21
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	1	...	1
Influenza	1	3	4
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer	35	42	77
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	19	43	62
Heart Disease	61	64	125
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	8	12
Bronchitis	9	8	17
Pneumonia	8	9	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	5	1	6
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	2	...	2
Other Digestive Diseases ..	4	8	12
Nephritis	4	4	8
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	1	1
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Congenital Malformation	6	3	9
Suicide	5	5	10
Accidents	3	2	5
Other Violent Causes... ..	5	5	10
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	1	1	2
All other Causes	18	17	35
All Causes... ..	213	236	449

Infant Mortality.

Of the 25 deaths of infants under one year 12 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	6	6
Scarlet Fever	45	29
Pneumonia	20	...
Erysipelas	13	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	3
Sonne Dysentery	3	3
Whooping Cough	96	1
Measles	262	...
Jaundice/Hepatitis	10	...
Malaria	1	...
Poliomyelitis... ..	1	...
Pulmonary T.B.	35	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	14	...
Total	514	42

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
5	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
20	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
25	4	5	3	...	3	...	...	...
35	3	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
45	5	1	1	1	3	2	...	...
55	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...
65	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	23	12	10	4	11	3	...	1

Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General Hospital—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

Infectious Diseases—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Normandy Road.

Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary—Osterhills, House, Normandy Road.

St. Albans District Nursing Association—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1946, 201 Midwifery and Maternity cases were nursed to which 3,713 visits were paid, and 1024 General cases to which 21,352 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 185 Post-Natal and 1173 Ante-Natal cases.

School Medical Service.

88 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 2,168 children were examined. 456 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 506. Of this number 420 were under school age and 86 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic—Wellington Court,
Bricket Road.**

The numbers at the Centre in 1946 were as follows :

Number on Register—Expectant mothers, 859.

Children (under 5), 1354.

Number of Attendances—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 1,022.

Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 3,548.

Attendances, 7,564.

Average weekly attendance of 148 children.

Number of deaths among children under 5 years, 4.

Number of children referred to the Orthopædic
Clinic, 75.

Inspections, Disinfections, etc.

Inspections.

During 1946, 2,885 inspections were made of premises including dwelling houses, grocery and provision shops, restaurant kitchens and cooked food premises, factories, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and offensive trade premises. In connection therewith 1,366 defects were remedied.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection was carried out in connection with 50 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and 27 in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Thirty-six complaints of bed-bug infestation were received and disinfestation was carried out, including six premises disinfested with H.C.N.

Housing.

During the year a large increase in the number of complaints regarding defects at dwelling-houses was recorded. In most instances it was found upon inspection that Owners and Agents had already placed orders for the necessary repairs to be carried out but, mainly owing to the shortage of materials and labour, considerable delay had occurred.

Many houses have reached the stage where it is almost impossible to maintain a reasonable standard of fitness, and although during the present acute housing shortage efforts are made to retain them ; the time is not far distant when demolition will be the only possible course of action,

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	891
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Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
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Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	442
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Remedy of defects during the year without

Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	408
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Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Premises.

Regular inspections were made of food preparing premises, including bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, slaughterhouses and butcher shops, fish shops, grocery and provision shops, dairies, etc. They were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Examination of Food and Drugs.

During 1946, one hundred and forty-six samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The samples included eighty-seven samples of milk, two each of saccharin tablets, curry powder, gravy browning and coffee, and one each of mustard, Health salts, pickling

spice, mixed spice, "Health chocolate," "Neoklenz," "Malto Bar," "Soyacream," lemon flavouring, sweetening tablets, lemon curd, craw fish paste, compound cooking fat, beef suet, meat pudding, ground ginger, ground cinnamon, cocoa, sage and onion stuffing, butter, savoury spread, sandwich paste, "Nuvic vegetable food," fruit cream, jelly dessert, halibut oil capsules, castor oil, camphorated oil, quinine and cinnamon, iodised throat tablets, eucalyptus oil, chocolate malt, bi-carbonate of soda, cream of tartar, Epsom salts, boracic acid crystals, liquorice powder, cough syrup, essence of cinnamon, soda mint tablets, "Laxobar," "Koray," lemon and glycerine, ginger wine, mashed potato powder, "Bouillon extract," haslett, salami and beef sausages.

Forty-six samples of milk were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the consumer and these were all reported to be genuine.

Thirteen samples were obtained from milk in course of delivery from producers to retailers and of these the milk from five producers was found to be deficient in fat.

Twenty-eight "appeal to cow" samples were obtained in connection with these fat deficiencies and it was found that in each case the morning milk contained less than the minimum fat standard as laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations and that the afternoon milk was above the standard.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, "it is no offence to sell milk below the standard of the Regulations provided if it is the actual product of the cow, even if the deficiency is brought about by improper feeding or milking."

The attention of the Producers was drawn to the deficiencies with a view to effecting an improvement in the milk supply to the City.

As is seen from the above list a comprehensive range of miscellaneous samples was submitted for analysis and it is pleasing to record that all were passed as genuine.

Milk Supply.

There are eight producers of milk in the City, fifteen dairies and fifteen retailers of milk.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during the year and these were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. Regulation 55G

Six retailers in the City are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two to sell "Accredited" milk and three to sell "Pasteurised" milk. In addition, one producer is licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk and two to produce "Accredited" milk.

In connection with the sale of "Designated Milk" in the City the following table shows the results of the examinations of all samples during 1946. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" Milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue

and the Coliform Tests and "Pasteurised" and "Heat Treated" Milk to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

Designation	No. of Samples	Meth. Blue		B. Coli.		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	53	43	10	46	7	...	...
Accredited ...	10	9	1	10	...	...	...
Pasteurised ...	56	53	3	...	...	53	3
Heat Treated ...	31	31	...	...	...	29	2
T, T. Pasteurised...	15	12	3	15	...	13	2
Totals ...	165	148	17	71	7	95	7

Ice Cream.

Considerable attention has been paid throughout the year to premises where ice cream is manufactured and/or sold. Ten premises are registered for the manufacture and sale and thirty-one for the sale only of ice cream.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for the storage of the ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

Samples were obtained from manufacturers and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these ten were satisfactory and two were reported as not having a satisfactory degree of bacteriological purity. The

attention of the manufacturers was drawn to the reports and advice was given. Further samples from the same sources proved satisfactory.

Water Supplies.

During the year quarterly samples from the Water Company's main supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and the Public Analyst reported that the water possessed a high degree of bacteriological purity.

Ten cottages at Park Street were provided with a piped water supply and standpipes were provided adjoining other cottages, the tenants of which had previously to obtain water from a considerable distance.

Corporation Swimming Bath,

Regular inspection of swimming bath at Cottonmill Lane was carried out during the season and samples of the bath water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory reports were received from the laboratory.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

